

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 SAB-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SIL-01 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-01 AID-05 /077 W

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R 241158Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2144

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E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: PFOR, CE, US

SUBJ: OFFICIAL COMMENT ON SECRETARY'S REFERENCE TO
USE OF FORCE IN MIDDLE EAST

1. DURING MONTHLY PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 32,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY MADE FIRST OFFICIAL COMMENT ON
SECRETARY'S REFERENCE, IN "BUSINESS WEEK" INTERVIEW,
TO HYPOTHETICAL USE OF FORCE IN MIDDLE EAST.
JAYAKODY, ACCORDING TO PRESS, SAID THAT SRI LANKA
VIEWS "WITH HORROR" SUGGESTION THAT FORCE MIGHT
BE USED AGAINST NATIONS OF MIDDLE EAST IF WESTERN
ECONIMICS ARE THREATENED. JAYAKODY IS ALSO QUOTED
AS SAYING, "WE DO NOT THINK IT WILL HAPPEN BECAUSE
THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE GOVERNMENT
WOULD NOT ALLOW IT". REITERATING THAT HE DID NOT
BEIEVE FORCE WOULD BE USED, JAYAKODY, ACCORDING TO PRESS,
SAID THAT SRI LANKA WOULD OPPOSE ANY SUCH USE.

2. CHECK WITH MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(MDFA) OFFICIAL AS TO ACCURACY OF PRESS REPORTS ELICITED
RESPONSE THAT QUOTATION THAT SRI LANKA VIEWS SUGGESTION
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"WITH HORROR"IS NOT CORRECT. HE EXPLANIED THAT MDFA ADDITONAL

SECRETARY TISSA WIJEYERATNE, WHO ALSO ATTENDED PRESS
CONFERENCE, HAD EXPRESSED "HIS OWN HORROR" THAT PRESS CONFERENCE
QUESTION HAD BEEN ASKED. REST OF REPORT IS CORRECT, HE
SAID.

3. WE HOPE TO DETERMINE WHETHER PRESS ACTUALLY
MISQUOTED MDFA OFFICIALS OR IF RESPONSE EMBASSY RECEIVED
IS ATTEMPT TO SOFTEN STATEMENT MADE AT PRESS CONFERENCE.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

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